

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has suggested that applicant delete “(Ni-Co)”, “(Ni-Mn)”, “(Ni-Fe)” and “(PTFE)” from claims 29, 30, 32, and 33 because they are redundant. Accordingly, applicant has amended the aforementioned claims such that “(Ni-Co)”, “(Ni-Mn)”, “(Ni-Fe)”, and “(PTFE)” are no longer present in the claims. In addition to amending claims 29, 30, 32, and 33, claim 35 has also been amended to remove “(PTFE)”.

The Examiner has objected to claim 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if incorporated into an independent claim. Because claim 8 is a dependent claim that depends upon claims 7 and 1, applicant has rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 7 and 8.

The Examiner has objected to claim 30 and has suggested that “an nickel layer” should be amended to “a nickel layer”. Additionally, the Examiner has stated that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 30 to reflect the Examiner’s suggestion.

Additionally, the Examiner has objected to claim 31 and has suggested that applicant delete “deposited over the base portion”. Applicant has deleted “deposited over the base portion” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if incorporated into an independent claim. Because claim 32 is a dependent claim that depends upon claim 28, applicant has rewritten claim 28 to include the limitations of claim 32.

The Examiner has objected to claim 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if incorporated into an independent claim. Because claim 33 is a dependent claim that depends upon claim 29, applicant has rewritten claim 29 to include the limitations of claim 33.

The Examiner has also objected to claim 35 and has suggested that “comprises a composite including” on line 1 be replaced with “further comprises”. Additionally, the Examiner has stated that claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to

overcome the objections set forth in this Office action. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 35 to reflect the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has objected to claim 36 and has suggested that "wherein the nickel" is deleted. Additionally, the Examiner has stated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action. Accordingly, applicant has made the suggested amendments as suggested by the Examiner.

Finally, the Examiner has objected claim 34 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has cited "the nickel layer" on line 1 as lacking antecedent basis. Applicant has canceled claim 34.

Applicant canceled claims 11-24 in response to the previous office action mailed April 29, 2005. Applicant now cancels claims 7, 8, 25-27, and 32-34.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 25, 28-31, and 35-36.

Applicant has added new claims 37-39. Applicants submit that support for new claims 37-39 is found in the specification on pages 4 through 8. Applicants further submit that new claims 37-39 add no new matter.

Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the applicability of the doctrine of equivalents.

Additionally, given that claims 2-10 are dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on independent claim 1 and add additional limitations, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-10 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

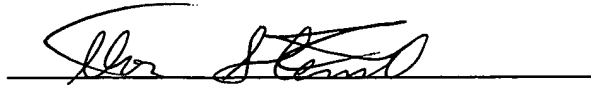
Applicants respectfully submit that the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account # 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 10-5, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ferrill', is written over a horizontal line.

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